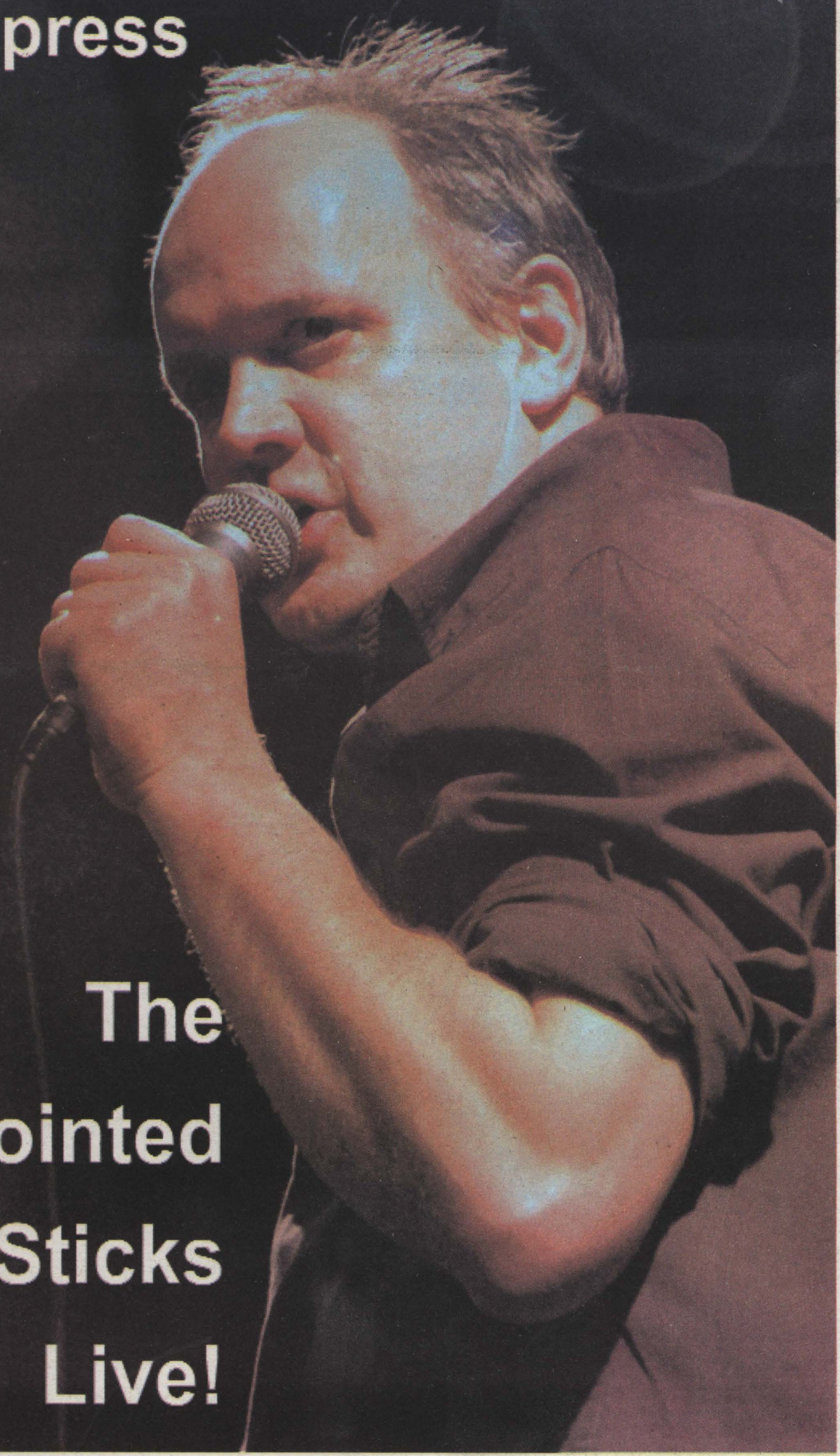


the douglas college student newspaper. occasionally writing about the pointed sticks since 1976

the other press

Issue 14
Volume 33
January 22

A close-up photograph of a man with short, light-colored hair, wearing a dark, long-sleeved shirt. He is holding a silver microphone to his mouth and appears to be singing or speaking. The background is dark with some out-of-focus light spots, including a prominent red one on the left and a larger, circular, reddish-pink one in the lower-left corner.

The
Pointed
Sticks
Live!

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THE OTHER PRESS - PUBLISHED SINCE 1976

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The weekly deadline for submissions is Wednesday for publication the following Wednesday. Letters to the Editor, vacant sections, and "time-sensitive" articles (weekend news, sports, and cultural reviews) will be accepted until Saturday noon and can be submitted to the editor at: othereditor@yahoo.ca

All other submissions should be forwarded to the appropriate section editor. Please include your name, phone number/email address, and word count, and submit via email as an MS Word.doc attachment to the attention of the appropriate editor.

The Other Press is run by a collective, which means all decisions are reached via a democratic voting process. Membership in the voting collective is open to any person who has contributed to at least two of three consecutive issues. Those interested in joining the Other Press collective should contact the editor at othereditor@yahoo.ca

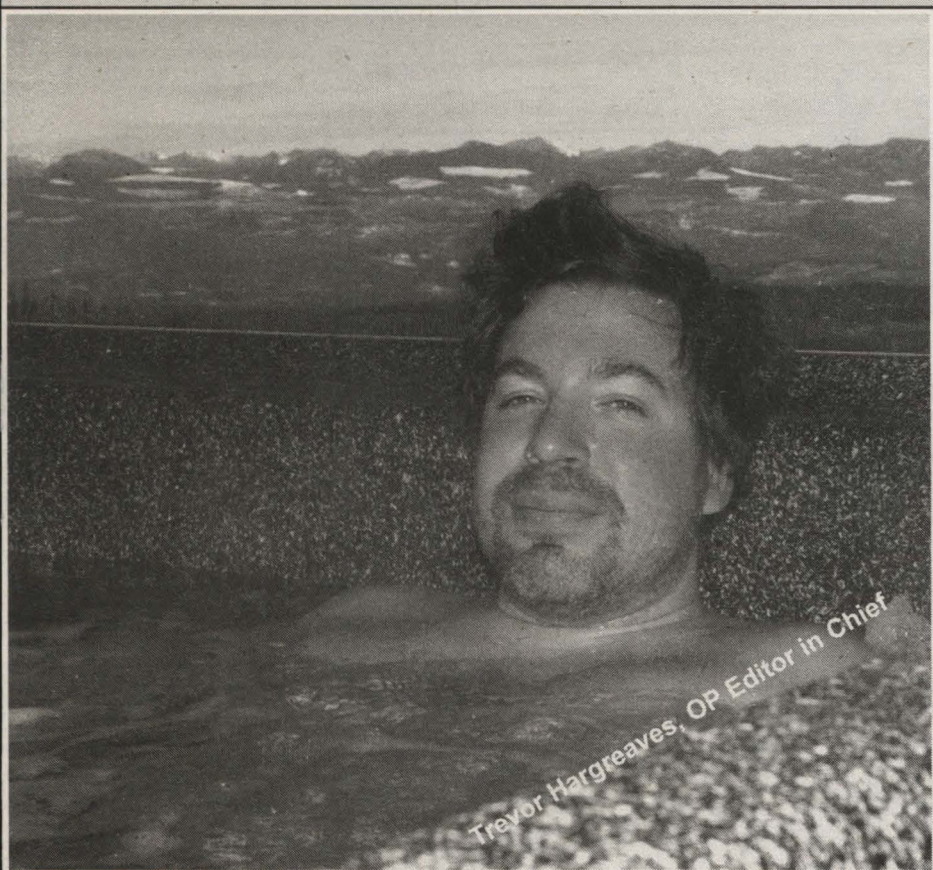
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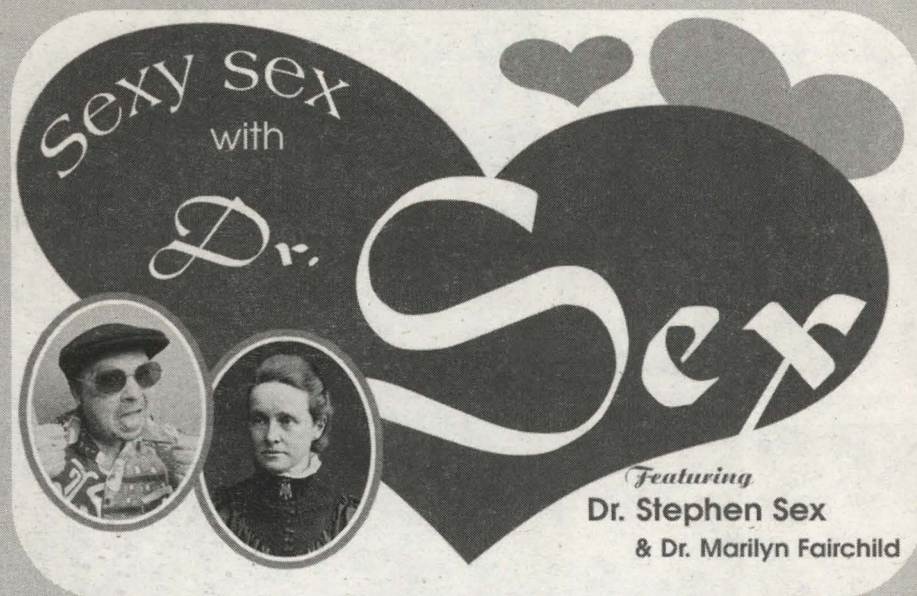
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Trevor Hargreaves, OP Editor in Chief

I'm writing to you this week from my sweet new hot-tub which has been freshly installed in the OP office. You may also notice the lovely view from the window behind me. Yup, life sure is bonus here at The Other Press. And the thing is, we want to share all of this glory and splendor with you! As we kick into a new semester, we're on the lookout for some new talent to add to our ranks. We're always searching for enthusiastic writers for our various sections, and currently we're also on the look-out for some graphic savvy types to assist with layout and design. So if you're interested in joining the rich and spoiled world that is student press, I'd urge you to attend one of our weekly meetings every Thursday at 6pm. Alternately, drop me an email and let's discuss your writing options. In the meantime, I think I'll stay in here and soak for another twenty minutes. A&E Editor Kevin Lalonde has promised me a foot rub and he should be here any minute. Talk to you next week!

Trev Hargreaves
Editor In Chief
The Other Press



Every week the OP's resident sex experts and happily divorced couple answer your questions. If you want to have a question answered by our sexperts, send an email to dr.steven.sex@gmail.com. You can keep your name confidential in fact, for legal reasons, we'd prefer it that way.

Dear Dr. Sex: I love my girlfriend a lot, more than anything, but last week she told me that she has secretly been a prostitute since she was 15 years old, and her 'hooker' name is Kitty Korner. I am still in shock over this revelation, and I have no idea how to react to it. I want to be supportive but I think I am hurt, too. Please help.

Sex Trade Industry

Dr. Sex: STI, the first thing you should think about and be grateful for is that you're getting it for free. Everyone else she encounters has to pay for it!

Dr. Fairchild: No, the first thing you need to think about is your health. If you have been having unprotected sex with your girlfriend then there is great risk of being exposed to sexually transmitted disease/infection. I would recommend seeing your health professional immediately, if you have not already done so.

Dr. S: Well still, it doesn't hurt that you've been getting action pro-bono...and pro-boner! But seriously, you do have to make it priority to get checked for disease, STI.

Dr. F: Once you have dealt with the immediate health concerns, then you can begin to focus on how you feel about your situation emotionally. Once the initial shock wears off, there will be a lot of feelings to sort through.

Dr. S: I am quite sure your girlfriend knows all about how to deal with 'shockers'.

Dr. F: Your girlfriend may feel that she is trapped in this certain way of life, and supporting her may be the best thing you can do. Let her know that she doesn't need to sell herself in order to make a living, and that you are there for her should she decide to get out of it.

Dr. S: You could help her look for a new, more legitimate, job. Get her into selling cell phones. Cell sales people are soulless, just like whores.

Dr. F: I really don't think that is fair...

Dr. S: Well thank you for your letter, STI, and we both hope you and your girlfriend work things out. See you next week!



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Pickton Trial to be Covered by Over 250 Journalists, 2 Former Sex Trade Workers

News website offers Internships to two women who knew some of the victims

Nicole Burton, News Editor

When the mob of journalists arrives in New Westminster next week from around the world, two women in particular will stand out. A Vancouver-based independent media website has awarded a pair of writing internships to two former sex trade workers who will be writing for them. Their story? To cover the gruesome trial of Robert Pickton, a Port Coquitlam resident now accused of murdering 26 female prostitutes from the Downtown Eastside.

His trial, now expected to last 24 months, begins next week in New Westminster Supreme Court, right next door to Douglas College's New Westminster campus.

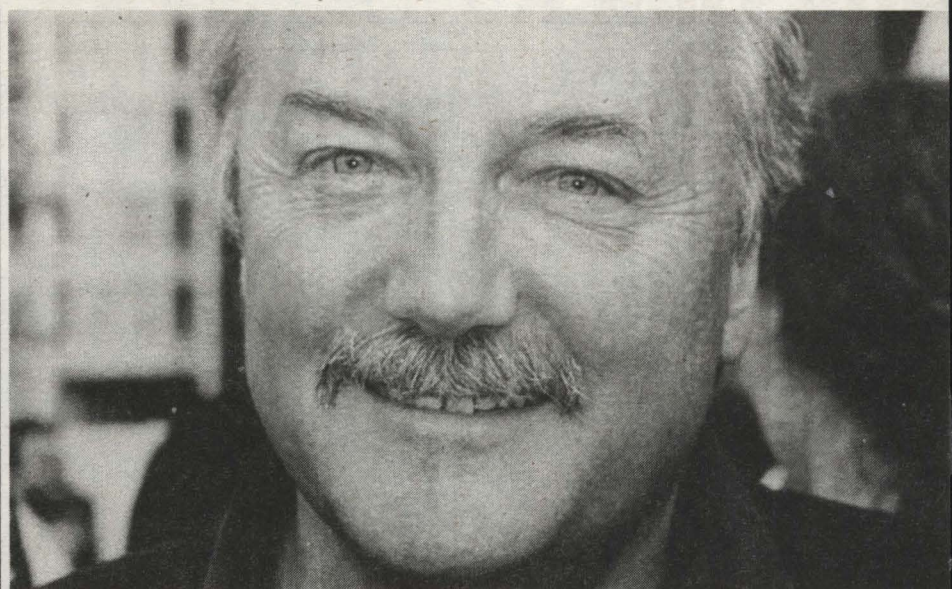
According to the website Orato.com, both women are familiar with the issues surrounding their Pickton's victims. Each of the women have worked in the sex trade and even knew several of the victims whose remains were found at the Pickton farm after an 18-month investigation beginning in 2002.

Of the 250 journalists signed up to cover the Pickton trial, a slim minority will be representing independent press. Orato.com Editor-in-Chief Paul Sullivan believes his website's amateur journalists will have an advantage over the pros based on their own life experience.

"They are going to go [to the trial] when it is appropriate to be there," Sullivan said to media last week. "We are asking them to shape their own coverage."

"I want to hear their stories," he said.

And apparently, so do others. In an online poll posted this week on their website, 90 percent of those who responded believed that having sex trade workers report on the Pickton trial "is a great idea" as "It gives the women affected a voice." 6 percent believe that it is "a terrible idea — prostitution is a crime," while 4 percent believe that a full publication ban would be the best option.



Canada "Joining the Ranks of the Hated in World," British MP Says

Ashley Walters, NightViews (Ryerson University)

TORONTO (CUP)—On one of the first really cold nights in Toronto, bundled bodies huddled outside Christ Trinity Church, straining to decipher the vibrations of a booming voice emanating from its interior.

The voice was that of George Galloway, a maverick socialist member of the British Parliament, whose anti-war sentiments led to his expulsion from the Labour party in 2003. But he was re-elected in 2005 as the MP for the anti-war party he founded, Respect: The Unity Coalition.

Galloway's talk focused on the current military occupations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine. He called attention to the stark shift in Canada's international reputation, from building "peace and development" to emulating the foreign policy of US President George Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair and, as Galloway put it, "joining the ranks of the hated in the world."

To Galloway, the hypocrisy within Canadian foreign policy is clear.

"It's absurd to say that [the Canadian government is] fighting for democracy in Afghanistan when you were the first government in the entire world to punish the Palestinian people with starvation because they voted for a party of which your government did not approve," he said.

Galloway's comments reference Canada's decision to stop funding the Hamas-controlled Palestinian Authority, which he noted was the only democratically elected government in the Middle East. Canada has cut \$7.3 million from what it is sending to Palestine, almost one-third of the annual \$25 million that Canada spends on aid in the West Bank and Gaza.

"75 per cent of people in Gaza are living on less than one Canadian dollar a day, and when [Prime Minister Stephen] Harper announced a siege against those people, this is a declaration of war, and I don't know why your country would do that," Galloway said.

Galloway also attacked the Liberal party's refusal to call for a ceasefire in Lebanon.

"It's absurd that [Canadians] have an opposition party that is not losing any sleep over massacres in Lebanon. It's the opposition that wouldn't call for a ceasefire," he said. And he said that since Canadian foreign policy is beginning to mirror that of the US, the silence of the Liberal party is all the more startling.

"That war that we talked about in Lebanon, every airplane, every warship, every tank, every shell, every rocket, every missile, every bullet, every gun, every salary of every Israeli soldier was paid, every cent, by the taxpayers of the United States of America," Galloway said.

He said he notices the "support our troops" placards that often greet him when he enters a building to give a talk, but urged people to support their troops by bringing them home and not continuing to fight a war that is "for a pack of lies, for a pack of liars."

"The troops are lions, led by donkeys, like Harper, like Blair, like Bush: people who are sending their own sons to kill and be killed," he said. "They're chicken hawks ready to fight the last drop of somebody else's blood for exploitation and domination around the world."

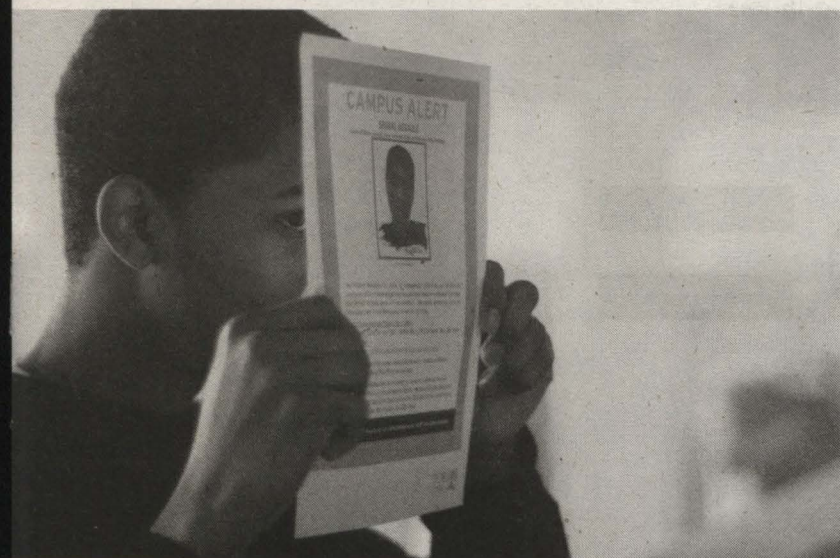
Galloway's history is fraught with controversy. The politician is widely known for his outspoken disagreement with war in the Middle East. He publicly opposed the 2003 invasion of Iraq, and he has been an ardent supporter of the Palestinian cause since the early 70s.

In 2003, after accusing Bush and Blair of attacking Iraq like a pack of wolves, he eventually apologized to wolves, saying he'd defamed the animals in comparing them to the politicians.

Any Black Male Could Fit that Description'

York student arrested while protesting alleged profiling on campus

Carl Meyer, Excalibur (York University)



ONTARIO (CUP)—A York student was arrested after vocalizing his opinions about racial profiling on campus and waving an object that appeared to be a gun.

Jon Boadi, a York student, was arrested by the Toronto on Jan. 3 at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Ten police officers arrested Boadi outside of the York bookstore after they received an emergency call from York Security and other bystanders that he was holding a gun up in the air.

Police later confirmed that the gun reports were false. Boadi is scheduled to appear in court on Wednesday, Jan. 10.

Jayson Young, a York student, was sitting in a nearby restaurant when he noticed Boadi talking loudly outside. He described Boadi's actions as an attempt at a political statement rather than as a threatening act.

"To me, it seemed at first like performance art," Young said. Witnesses said that Boadi was suggesting that the recent York Campus Alert was an example of racial profiling on campus.

York University posted a public alert around campus in mid-December after police issued a composite sketch of an individual they believe committed the sexual assaults in the area. The campus alert displays the police composite photo at the

top with a written description underneath: "Male, black, 25 to 35 years, 6'0", medium build, bald or shaved head, red shirt, black ballcap."

Boadi "was proving a point; he was drawing attention to the fact that this is kind of a farcical example of justice by the university," Young said. "He was commenting on whether this is an effective way to deal with some terrible behaviour that's been going on on campus."

Although emergency calls placed to police stated that Boadi was brandishing a gun, Young finds it difficult to believe that this impression could be given.

"He wasn't even holding [the object] like a gun."

Ellyn Sylvia, a York student, saw police and York security march past her to the bookstore.

Young believed that Boadi's actions were not criminal, adding that the only thing that might have provoked anyone was that "he seemed to stray a bit from the point."

Saada Awaleh-God, vice-president of media relations for the York University Black Students Association (YUBSA), suggested that the police responded with unwarranted force.

"He wasn't causing any harm. The amount of force put on him was not necessary. Ten officers for one man is not necessary," Young said.

"It took about eight or ten cops to subdue him even though he was being completely peaceful," he exclaimed. "[It was] this huge parade of police officers coming to talk to this man who wasn't doing anything criminal."

Sylvia agreed that Boadi was not struggling when police and York security led him outside. "He was pretty docile," she said.

Young also noted that during the incident, York Security blocked off the area near the bookstore.

"There were two security guards saying, 'You can't walk past here.'"

When Young asked why, he said he was simply told, "You just can't."

Alex Bilyk, director of media relations at York, defended

York Security's decision to involve the police and block off the area.

"Nobody wants to fool around when they think there's a weapon involved," he said. "York Security took the measures they needed to take in order to allow the police to react to this case."

"If someone is causing a disturbance, and there is reason to believe a weapon may be involved, we'll take the necessary action to involve the police as soon as possible," continued Bilyk. Bilyk, however, suggested that students should be wary of possible police involvement when considering taking similar actions to those of Boadi.

"Use your own head," he said. "In today's environment, people are all on edge and it's not an appropriate action."

Meanwhile, some students believe that the incident was provoked by the sexual assault campus alerts on campus.

The secretary of YUBSA, Yolanda Abrahams, suggested that the composite on the campus alert is not descriptive enough to be effective.

"The sketch looked very ambiguous. Any black male could fit that description," Abrahams said.

"Racial profiling still exists on campus," she said.

Other students have suggested that the campus alert borders on issues of racial profiling and that they could have done without the composite photo, since they felt it was too general to be used as an investigative tool.

Professional opinions differ on the existence of racial profiling.

Thomas Lynch, a detective sergeant overseeing sexual assault crimes in the Toronto Police Sex Crimes Unit, believes that the process used in developing composite photos is highly scientific; however, he would not provide details.

"That's a long process that we use through our forensic identification people, and that's a process I'm not willing to discuss right now, but basically, we use the victims' memory of her assailant to prepare a composite."

Lynch was quick to defend the process.

"We would never solely go prosecute on a composite. We would have other evidence too," he said. "We would use different kinds of identification for down the road, whether it be forensic or whether it be a photo of the actual suspect identified."

Dates and Deadlines!

Douglas Students: While we're getting back into the hang of pop quizzes, all-night cramming and criminally expensive book prices, don't forget all of the important upcoming dates and deadlines regarding your studies. Cut out this info and keep it handy, or for a full winter semester calendar of deadlines, students can also go to the Douglas College website, at on www.douglas.bc.ca.

January 3-March 15 Applications or reapplications for Summer for General Admission programs will be processed but students will receive a late registration appointment time.

January 8 All classes begin. Late registration begins.

January 8-21 Refunds for course drops during this period are \$35 per credit.

January 20 Last day to add a course.
Last day to change from credit to audit status in a course. Deadline for Scholarship, Award & Bursary Applications for Winter semester administered by Douglas College.

January 21 Last day to drop a course without receiving a "W" on record (subsequent withdrawals receive a grade of "W").

January 23 Deadline to apply for limited enrollment programs for Summer Semester.

January 24 Last day to apply for Summer Graduation (June).

January 31 Deadline for submission of new International student applications for the Summer Semester.

February 1 Early Deadline for Student Loan Application for Summer Semester.

Deadline to apply for transfer credit to ensure credit has been recorded to meet course pre-requisites for Summer registration.

February 12 Winter Graduation Ceremony

February 12-13 Study Break - Classes cancelled.

February 19-24 Mid-semester - students may obtain mid-semester standing from instructors during this week in order to make decisions about dropping courses by the deadline below.

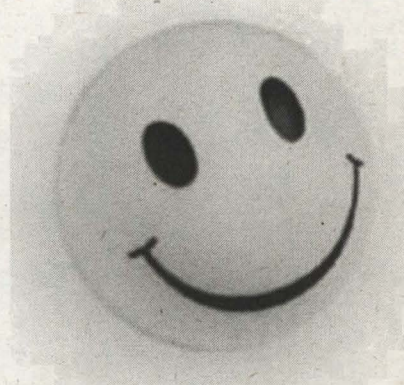
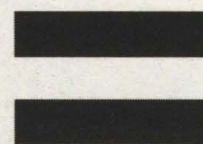
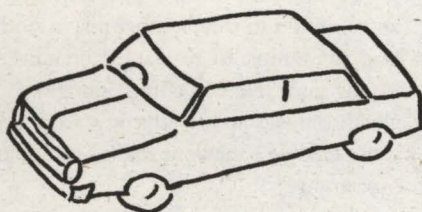
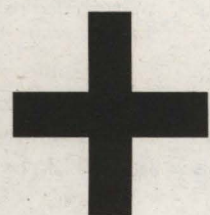
February 28 Deadline for students placed on academic probation from the Fall semester to meet with a Counsellor. Students who do not meet with a Counsellor by this date will be unable to access their records or register for future semesters.



The Greasy Revolution

Saving the planet is easier than we think

Alex King, OP Contributor



Everyone's talking about global warming. It's the phrase that's on the tip of everybody's tongue, and as Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* has shown us, it's a problem we can solve. Like anything though, global warming has its naysayers, and aside from their stance that the problem simply doesn't exist, their argument against switching to alternate fuels from greenhouse-gas-emitting fossil fuels has been that it would be far too expensive and convoluted to revamp our global fuel delivery system.

But we can make it better. And yes, we have the technology. Amidst skyrocketing fuel costs in the last few years, a few people began customizing their diesel cars to run off of used deep-fryer oil (or waste vegetable oil as it's officially known). Yes, the steel barrels full of spent shortening behind the McDonald's dumpster can top off a diesel car. It's an excellent method of recycling something that's commonly produced and trucked away for disposal.

Of course, old oil from the deep fryer isn't the only source of usable vegetable oil as fuel. There's a lot of research circling around biodiesel, which is vegetable oil made for use in unmodified diesel vehicles. It can be produced by plenty of common crops, including soybeans, flax seed, safflower, peanuts and even the much-maligned oil palm. In fact, some cars already come readily equipped to run on 100% bio-diesel fuel. By using biodiesel, we move the

oil rig to the farmer's field and plant trees instead of drill.

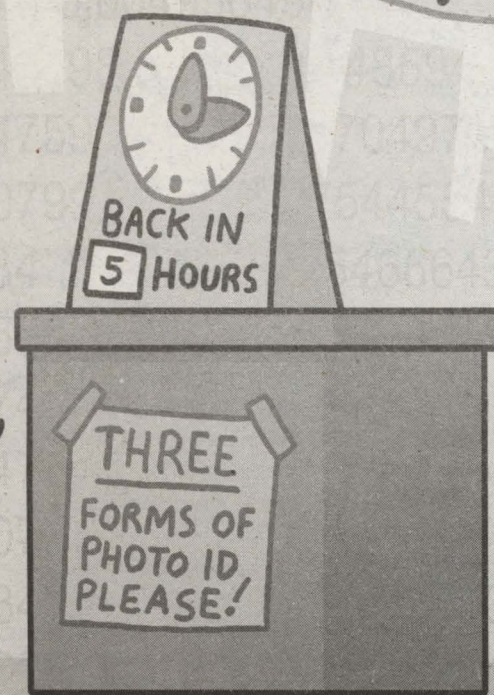
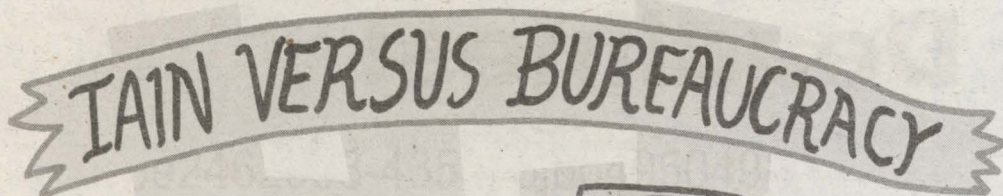
But wait—if the world uses biodiesel, we're still burning oil, right? What effect does that have on the environment? Very little, surprisingly. Because it's a vegetable by-product, biodiesel is biodegradable and environmentally friendly. And as for emissions, biodiesel reduces carbon monoxide levels by 50% and carbon dioxide levels by 78%, making it an excellent stepping stone before hydrogen fuel is manageable and readily available to the public.

Despite all this positive news, biodiesel isn't without its detractors. Because fuel sources have to be grown, some argue that it would take too much acreage to keep up with the global demand for fuel. However, scientists are working on a method to extract oil from algae, which would result in 15 times the oil per hectare production of oil palms, the most productive land crop.

There's no doubt that biodiesel is a step in the right direction and, if used in place of fossil fuels, will reduce greenhouse emissions by a huge margin. It just goes to show that saving the planet doesn't mean reinventing the wheel. We'll still drive around in fuel-burning cars and fill up at a gas station—it'll just be courtesy of algae, palm trees and peanuts instead of dead dinosaurs.

Iain vs. Bureaucracy

Iain W. Reeve, OP Assistant Editor



I have always been a firm supporter of government agencies. I think that it is dangerous to trust the delivery of important goods and services to the private sector when the government can do so directly, ensuring quality, equity and consistency. However, one thing I have very little tolerance for (that these agencies sometimes exhibit) is bureaucratic stupidity.

It's the type of thing that ring-wing privatization nuts always use as ammunition. The claim is always that the private sector should take over services because they can increase efficiency. Personally, I have always been able to excuse a certain amount of inefficiency in exchange for the quality government can deliver in things like healthcare. However, I always come across things that are so obviously stupid that anyone not caught up in the silly little esoteric world of regulations and procedures can see it.

What is even better is that the stuffy employees who tend to populate government offices have a built in pretentiousness, making it impossible for them to consider anyone else's ideas as valid. Thus even if you tell them, "Don't you think it would be easier and faster if you did X?" they will never listen to you. Listening to you would mean admitting that they are doing something wrong, which to them is unacceptable.

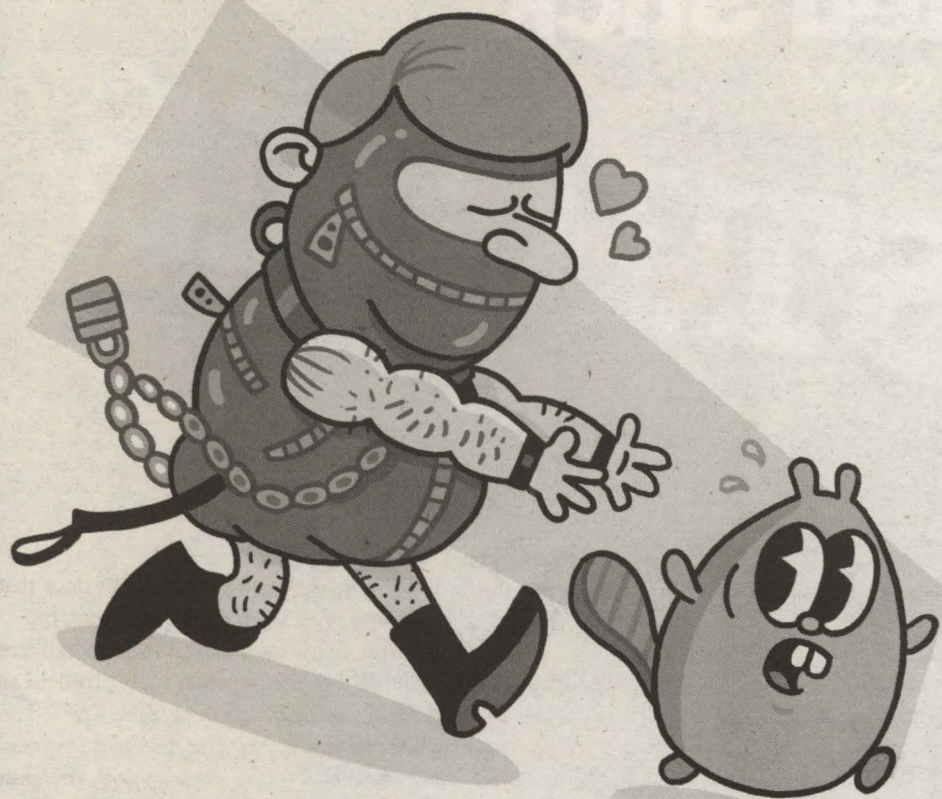
I have dueled with non-government bureaucracies, here at Douglas, at SFU, customer service lineups at all manner of stores. However, they all pale in comparison to my epic battles against student the BC student loan department. Late loans, lost documents, irrelevant security procedures, they've done it all. One battle, however, I was actually able to win.

Traditionally, every semester it was necessary to send in a "student loan agreement" to both the federal and provincial government in order to get your funding. This meant, after already having applied, you needed to get two additional forms filled out with your bank information and signature then take them to specific post offices and send them off. I always wondered why it was necessary to send in the same damn information every single semester when, like most people on earth, I do not change banks every four months necessitating a new form each semester. I told them this every semester, talking to a different vapid supervisor every time who, in their typical idiom, told me they'd consider my suggestion. I never expected to actually see changes. So imagine my surprise when I was told this semester that for the BC portion it is no longer necessary to send in a new agreement every semester!

I'm not conceding enough to assume it was my constant nagging that caused them to alter their position, but I'd like to think that I may have been a straw on the camel's back. I guess the message here is that it will make the world better for everyone if you speak up when you see stupidity in bureaucracies and businesses. Think of yourself as a crusader for what is right. Those who benefit may not be able to thank you, but you can know in some little way you've made it better for people.

Pornography Makes Federal Politics Fun

Ryan Unger, OP Contributor



For years I had problems deciding which federal political party to support, until I developed a foolproof method. I call it "political pornography." It's a simple process, really. All you have to do is think of a political party that is asking for your vote and imagine which style of porn they best represent.

Take the Green Party for example. According to my theory, they'd be the most likely to create one of those New Age videos. You know what I mean? Similar to that artsy crap that they show on Showcase where a bunch of sagging baby boomers sit in a circle, bang on drums and lead a chant. The movie climaxes when the whole group comes together in a giant naked heap and hums each other into orgasm.

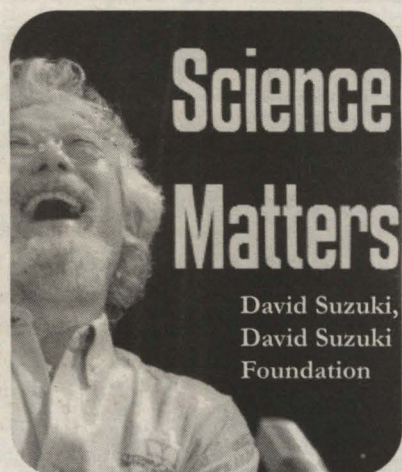
The NDP would be a little more varied. While they often go outdoors for communal nature sex, they at least vary the routine. For example, there's always to be a good hardcore scene, where the burly union worker satisfies the attractive intellectual. The woman is always on top of course, in everything except scenes involving gay men. And the NDP would certainly have some steamy gay sex scenes, with men or women. So, really, there is something for everyone within the NDP porn genre.

The Bloc Quebecois represent my least favourite style of porn; the interrupted girl-on-girl scene. This occurs when there is a particularly good lesbian scene with attractive actresses, when suddenly guess who has to ruin the fun? Some Fabio look-alike, that's who, with long blonde hair and a bunch of muscles. The bastard gets in on the action, and splits the happy couple. What a disgrace.

The Conservative porn style is more of an acquired taste. Unfortunately, it's generally the most unappealing. I will spare the worst of the details, but imagine a naked Stephen Harper, viciously whipped by a leather-clad Laura Bush. Some can appreciate this sort of fetish but it just doesn't work for me.

Lastly, we come to the Liberal Party. The Liberal style of porn consists of one of those videos where it's painfully obvious the actors and actresses don't want to be there and are only performing for the money. "Oh yeah, it's so big and hard" go the usual lines, while the actress is counting her money off camera. Admittedly, the performers are often attractive. They say all the right things and their scenes have all the right elements. Something is missing that makes it hard to believe.

In conclusions, once in awhile, sure, I get sucked in by a good Liberal porno, but it's the tried and true NDP porn that's my favourite selection.



Well, it took Stephen Harper a while, but he finally put Rona Ambrose out of her misery, shuffling her out of the limelight of the environment ministry and replacing her with the smiling face of John Baird.

Some have argued that the move is long overdue, as Ms. Ambrose was often faulted for her poor performance on the environment file. Of course, poor performance in this context doesn't mean insufficiently protecting the environment. It means she was unable to assuage concerns held by the public, the opposition, and the media, that Stephen Harper's government is completely uninterested, even hostile, towards the environment.

Ms. Ambrose indeed may not have been the best spokesperson, often coming across as somewhat cold and prickly on a file that is considered more warm and fuzzy. Mr. Baird, on the other hand, is outgoing and well-liked. He's also influential and politically savvy. Within a couple of hours of the announcement of his appointment, he telephoned me to say that he was committed to working with environment groups because climate change was a serious problem that, if anything, was being underestimated by scientists.

He also assured me that he was "not a member of the flat-Earth society." I don't know if he was comparing himself to his predecessor, the rest of the Conservative cabinet, the prime minister or just making an offhand joke, but the comment is an important one.

That's because whether or not Ms. Ambrose cared a whit about the environment was irrelevant, as will be the case with Mr. Baird. The reality is that government policy under the Harper administration is dictated by one person—Stephen Harper. John Baird could be a card-carrying member of Greenpeace and he still wouldn't be able to change a thing without Mr. Harper's blessings.

So, is Mr. Harper changing his stripes? It certainly didn't hurt that former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney recently made public statements, urging Mr. Harper to go green. As Mr. Mulroney pointed out, it helped him to do so back in 1988 when he embraced the rising tide

of environmentalism. In fact, Mr. Mulroney was recently hailed as Canada's greenest prime minister.

Of course, Mr. Mulroney may not have had a green bone in his body. He was ultimately responding to public concern. Mr. Harper is now in that same position, though he seems reluctant to admit it. Public concern over environmental problems, especially global warming, has reached an all-time high. It would be politically foolish to ignore those concerns.

Yet Mr. Harper has done a remarkable job of ignoring them thus far in his stint as prime minister. For a long time it seemed like he hadn't realized that he actually won the last election, appearing content to simply blast the Liberals' environment record as though he was still in opposition. However, behind the scenes, there was no doubt about who was in charge, as Mr. Harper abandoned Canada's Kyoto commitment and systematically dismantled all the environmental projects and policies the previous government had developed.

In their place, Mr. Harper left promissory notes for a comprehensive "Made in Canada" solution to Canada's growing environmental woes. Eventually, that laughable language was purged and replaced with the equally disingenuous "Clean Air Act." When Ms. Ambrose was savaged by the international community at a UN-sponsored climate meeting about the obvious weaknesses and insufficiencies of the Act, and her government's abandonment of Kyoto, she simply reverted to bashing the Liberals.

It's been a rocky ride for Mr. Harper's government on the environment file. Given his history on the issue, the most likely scenario is that Mr. Harper will do the bare minimum he must to quell rising public concerns over the environment. What that bare minimum is will be determined by the Canadian public, who will decide if he's green enough or really just another member of the flat-Earth society.

Take the Nature Challenge and learn more at www.davidsuzuki.com.

It Was Better Than a Poke in the Eye With a Pointed Stick

The Pointed Sticks at Richard's on Richards, January 6, 2007

Luke Simcoe, OP Columnist



PHOTOS BY LUKE SIMCOE

There are many people, some of whom work at this very publication, who are more qualified to write about the Pointed Sticks than me. The seminal Vancouver new-wave band burned white-hot and then faded away all before I was born. They're kind of like Vancouver's answer to Operation Ivy; despite their brief existence, they left behind quite a legacy. Their two near-perfect power pop records, *Perfect Youth*, produced by a fledgling Bob Rock, and *Waiting for the Real Thing*, a collection of singles and b-sides, overflow with bratty exuberance, and their songs have been covered by numerous Vancouver bands including Gob, The Evaporators, and The Real Mackenzies (who gracefully transform "Out of Luck" into "Out of Scotch").

Anyway, through a series of reissues courtesy of Zulu Records and Joe Keithley's Sudden Death label, the Sticks have become huge in Japan. Their newfound success in the land of the rising sun has been the impetus for their 're-enactment' ("we hate the word reunion," the band told CTR) tour, which hit three stops in Japan before coming to Vancouver for a pair of shows on January 6 nearly 26 years since the band last performed in the city in May of 1981.

The audience was warmed up by Narduar the Human Serviette who played host and introduced the openers: Shiny Diamonds (yawn...) and The Transmittorz (hooray!), but as usual, the crowd's energy was reserved for the headliners. It's been awhile since I was at a sold-out show at Richards, and the packed house sang and danced along to hits like "Out of Luck," "Apologies," "Waiting for the Real Thing," and of course, "The Marching Song." The Sticks themselves didn't disappoint, and the two encores and numerous 'thanks' gave us an infectious glimpse of how thrilled they were to be playing together again.

Although it was great to ring in the new year with an old band, a sense of ironic spectacle lurked around the edges of the show. Guitarist Bill Napier-Hemy, a man who penned The Sticks' ditty "I Quit School," has since become a high-school teacher, and the rest of the band is hardly the spitting image of perfect youth. Don't get me wrong, I think it's great that older bands can resonate with new audiences, but the juxtaposition of old men and youthful music was a poignant reminder that even punk rock can't save us from growing up (except maybe in the case of Narduar).





Better Know a Campus Non-Profit Group: Cinema Politica

Jeff Hammersmark, OP Contributor

Following *Columbine*, *Fahrenheit 9/11*, *Super Size Me*, *Who Killed the Electric Car*, *Fast Food Nation*. There's no denying that the humble documentary is fast becoming legitimate competition for Hollywood films. Perhaps it stems from our fascination with reality media, or maybe Michael Moore's in-your-face style of work attracted new customers to a previously unfamiliar genre. Whatever the reason, it appears that the documentary is here to stay as their big-screen profits have been more than impressive and there's no shortage of people who like money.

While the titles at the beginning of this article may sound familiar, there are many other great documentaries that didn't get their start on the big screen. These films typically don't succeed outside of the world of hardcore docs, but they are equally important as their big screen brethren. Another trend is developing to address this issue: film screening groups have been popping up in schools across the country, and your college is on board.

Last semester at the New West campus, Douglas College's new film screening group, Cinema Politica, was created to make these great films available for you to see. Things were kicked off with *Wal-Town*, a Canadian-made documentary exposing some of Wal-Mart's negative impacts on society. Other great films were shown, including *Avatar Rising*, an inspiring story of how music and dance changed lives, and changed life, in the violent slums of Rio

de Janeiro. This semester, Cinema Politica has a great line up of films to screen, free of charge as usual, and they're starting with what some have called the most important film ever made: *An Inconvenient Truth*. Roger Ebert wrote the following about Al Gore's "global warning" film "In 39 years, I have never written these words in a movie review, but here they are: You owe it to yourself to see this film. If you do not, and you have grandchildren, you should explain to them why you decided not to." For the great price of free, you can see *An Inconvenient Truth* on Tuesday, January 23 at 7 PM, or Friday, January 26 at 3:30 PM, in room 1614 of the New West campus. Rumor has it that some might even walk out with more than they came in with, and I'm not talking about intangibles either.

A schedule for all Cinema Politica films will be available over the course of the semester, and you'll find posters around the campus as well. When you attend a screening, you'll also have the option of joining the Cinema Politica e-mailing list, which will deliver the screening dates, times, room numbers, and more into your inbox so you'll never miss a screening. Remember, the best things in life are free, so grab some friends, save yourself the \$7 you would have spent on popcorn alone, and drop into a Cinema Politica screening. Your brain, and your wallet, will thank you.

IN 1996, ELECTRIC CARS BEGAN TO APPEAR ON ROADS ALL OVER CALIFORNIA. THEY WERE QUIET AND FAST, PRODUCED NO EXHAUST AND RAN WITHOUT GASOLINE.

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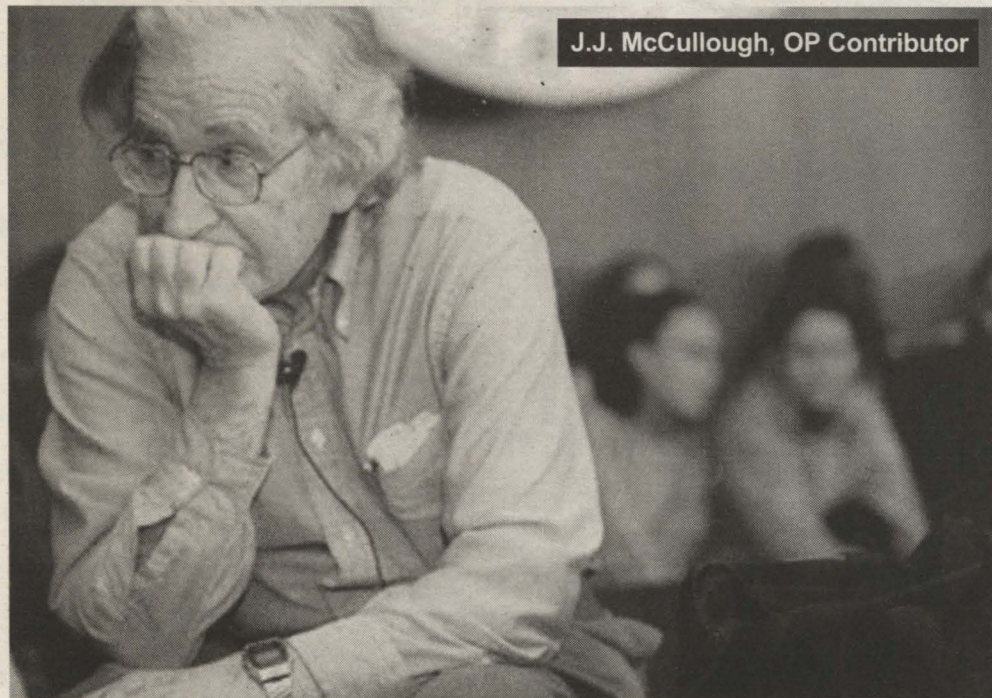
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WHO KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR?

Why do people still like Chomsky?

J.J. McCullough, OP Contributor



Inevitably, one of the first names any student learns upon entering any post secondary institution is that of Noam Chomsky. Indeed, the man is popular to the point where the name "Chomsky" itself has evolved into something of an iconic cliché of college life, akin in scope to other stalwart terms such as "Kraft Dinner" and "pub night." Visit any post secondary library, bookstore, or reading room and you're likely to find a plethora of Chomsky titles. Take any course in political science, sociology, communications, or history and his works are likely to be liberally sprinkled throughout the "required readings."

I've always had something of a morbid fascination with the Chomsky phenomenon. Though politically I obviously disagree with almost everything he writes, one can't help but be impressed at the sheer success and popularity he's achieved as an author, especially in winning over young readers. Doubtlessly part of the appeal is that Chomsky writes in such a self-confident way. His descriptions are so damning, his conclusions are so sweeping, and his vitriol is so unapologetic it's hard not to be persuaded by a man who is so clearly passionate about what he believes. People like to be shocked, and Chomsky writes in a shocking way. He screams to his readers that everything they read and watch and hear is wrong, with Chomsky himself being the lone voice of sanity in an insane world.

And I believe that is in itself the essence of the Chomsky appeal. He has done a remarkable job of creating his own little narratives of foreign policy which are either too radical or nonsensical for anyone but himself to take seriously. This in turn creates the impression that everyone else—the news media, the politicians, the popular culture, the mainstream authors, moderate academics, etc., are either brainwashed idiots or active collaborators in the big conspiracy to conceal the truth.

Chomsky's been in my mind recently only because I am starting to seriously wonder if his appeal can sustain itself for that much longer. Since the end of the Cold War, American foreign policy has begun to evolve in a dramatically new direction, and as a result many of the core theories of Chomskyism—the conspiratorial beliefs which he dictated will always govern how the United States acts abroad are beginning to become severely discredited by a changing world of statecraft.

The most engaging and thought-provoking tenant of the Chomsky worldview has always been his thesis of the "threat of the good example," a theory he has been espousing for most of his career, perhaps most articulately in his 1993 bestseller 'What Uncle Sam Really Wants'. The logic goes that Uncle Sam really only wants one thing in the world, and that is for every other country in the world to be slaves to the American capitalist empire. Under the Chomsky model all nations are thus best understood as being either American puppet-colonies, or rebellious, "independent" regimes. Such "independent" governments are usually Marxist dictatorships of one form or another, and over the years Chomsky has praised regimes such as Castro's Cuba, Ho Chi Minh's North Vietnam, and Ortega's Nicaragua for their bravery and tenacity in "standing up" to the U.S. hegemony.

Such rebel countries were of course America's open enemies, and during the Cold War Chomsky tirelessly argued that the US government's "official" justifications for why such regimes were hated was a pack of lies. The Soviet Union presented no threat and no one in Washington was seriously afraid of Russian expansionism around the world, he explained. What American leaders really feared was the success of socialism, because it would be too embarrassing to their own bankrupt capitalist ideology to let such success stories thrive freely. During the often hysterically anti-communist Cold War it could be argued this made some modicum of sense. It certainly won Chomsky a lot of fans. Yet when we look at the world today in post-Cold War, it is really fascinating to notice America's ever-declining interest in quashing these supposed "good examples" around the world.

During the 60s and 70s, Latin America was a mess of right-wing military dictatorships of various stripes, many of which received US backing when they went around quashing left-wing rebel groups. Ostensibly this was done because the United States government said it feared Soviet meddling in the American hemisphere, and could not allow its safety to be compromised by the establishment of another Cuban-style Communist proxy state. The Chomsky rabble, by constant, accused the Yankees of deposing Marxist populists like Chile's Salvador Allende for no reason other than they hated progressive socialism, and didn't want any poor people to enjoy its benefits.

If this was indeed the case, however, one would expect America to still be engaged in the same kind of aggressive foreign policy to this day, keeping South America conservative and anti-communist by whatever draconian means necessary. But consider the events of last week alone. Daniel Ortega, a former Marxist guerilla leader who the Reagan administration spent the better part of the 80s trying to depose, re-assumed the presidency of Nicaragua. Rafael Correa, a former finance minister who had been fired from his previous job for being too left-wing, was sworn in as president of Ecuador. And finally, the great kingfish of Latin American socialism himself, Hugo Chavez, was sworn in for his third term as president of Venezuela. In wake of these latest developments, here are now only two countries in the entire South American continent Paraguay and Colombia which are not ruled by either social-democrats or radical leftists.

What's the explanation of all this? Has America finally been overpowered by the Latino left? Has the former might of the US military and CIA eroded to the point where the United States is helpless to prevent these radicals from coming to office? Or, perhaps is there a simpler explanation: America just doesn't care.

From any sort of economic standpoint, Latin America is a region of only marginal importance to the United States. Hugo Chavez can nationalize all he wants but without the specter of Soviet backing, he'll never be a truly threatening presence to America. He could establish a communist utopia tomorrow and still not irk the White House. This is the central problem with the Chomskyite understanding of the world. When you're a socialist, you tend to live your life motivated more by ideology than pragmatism or rationality. And in time, you come to assume that everyone else, including the United States government, operates the same, predictable way. It may be edgy and unorthodox to suggest that traditional concerns such as domestic security and maintaining the balance of power play no role in motivating a nation's foreign policy, but if you are going to make such radical claims you sure as hell better have some concrete proof to back it up. It's not enough for it to merely "sound" plausible.

Chomsky is a crank, and as the years go on it is becoming more and more apparent just how hopelessly dated and ideologically blind many of his most cherished theories of foreign policy are. It's a shame that so many university students and academics are still under his spell.

This Poker Dog is a Gambler

Ed Ronald, OP Contributor

I am not a particularly lucky man, but I like gambling. In fact, I like it so much that I have always had a secret dream of becoming a professional gambler. Unfortunately, that would probably not be a sound financial move for someone who has (for good reason) been called "loser" constantly during his life.

I was introduced to serious gambling at one of my first jobs. My manager there really loved gambling. He ran a small cabinetmaking shop and had a standing policy that at shift's end, any employee could bet him their day's wage, double or nothing, on the flip of a coin. I must admit that he taught me the value of a dollar. Imagine working eight hours and then taking the bus home with nothing to show for it because you went for double or nothing.

Paydays at the shop were quite an event. My manager

knew how to throw one hell of a gambling party. Have you ever seen the painting of dogs playing poker? These parties were much the same, but these dogs had less class. He would give us our cheques and if we wanted to stay, he would cash them for us. Out came a bar stocked with anything you wanted to drink, which was all for free if you were in the game. I don't know where the girls came from that hung around the game, but they were pretty and friendly. Guys from other local cabinet shops showed up to join in the festivities and they brought their cheques.

While I was somewhat naive at the time, the men that showed up to join the game were well accustomed and hardcore. They arrived with a lot more money than my beginner wage would permit, and they went until they lost their money, or were too drunk to stand. I remember one man drinking so

heavily that while playing he puked into his hand and then ate it. He wiped his shirt, continued playing, and won the damn round. In hindsight, the odds were stacked against you in more ways than one; a work friend of mine caught a disease from one of the girls, and I never left the game with a full paycheck.

The type of gambling I play now consists of five-dollar bets on the Canuck games. I guess I'm not much of a gambler; they only win half the time, therefore so do I. I do play the slots once in awhile. I have a system that involves walking into a casino with \$20 and leaving when it's gone or when I win a dollar more than I walked in with. I'm usually there all of five minutes. Most times I lose; sometimes I walk out with \$21; and occasionally I bound out of the casino wagging my tail, barking back, "you loser!" with a couple hundred in my pocket.

During the time I have spent gambling, I have come up with three rules: never drink too much while gambling; only bet what you can afford to lose; and never play poker with dogs.

Stuff I've Been Watching Too!

Kevin Lalonde, OP Arts & Entertainment Editor

Working at a video store, while being entirely shameful, does have its perks. Free movie rentals is definitely one of them. I'm not sure what the other perks are; come to think of it, I'm fairly sure there are no others, but that free rentals thing is pretty righteous. Here are some flicks recently released to video that are worth checking out.

Idiocracy

My counterpart, Luke Simcoe, often rags on me because I love the cartoon *King of the Hill*. I am always more than willing to explain that moralizing rednecks and schized-out morons like Beavis and Butt-Head aren't the only creation of the shows famed producer Mike Judge. Wait, yeah they are.

Idiocracy is a nearly sci-fi view of the world 500 years from now. Since we all know that red-neck hillbillies breed like rabbits, it's logical to assume that the entire world will eventually be populated entirely by morons with a global average IQ of 68. After a military hibernation experiment brings a remarkably average Luke Wilson and Maya Rudolph (of SNL fame) to the year 2505, they both suddenly find themselves the smartest people on the Earth.

While this may not sound like Oscar-winning material, *Idiocracy* is damned amusing, hilariously written, and makes you wonder, "Gosh, what *would* happen if a wrestling superstar was the President of the United States?"

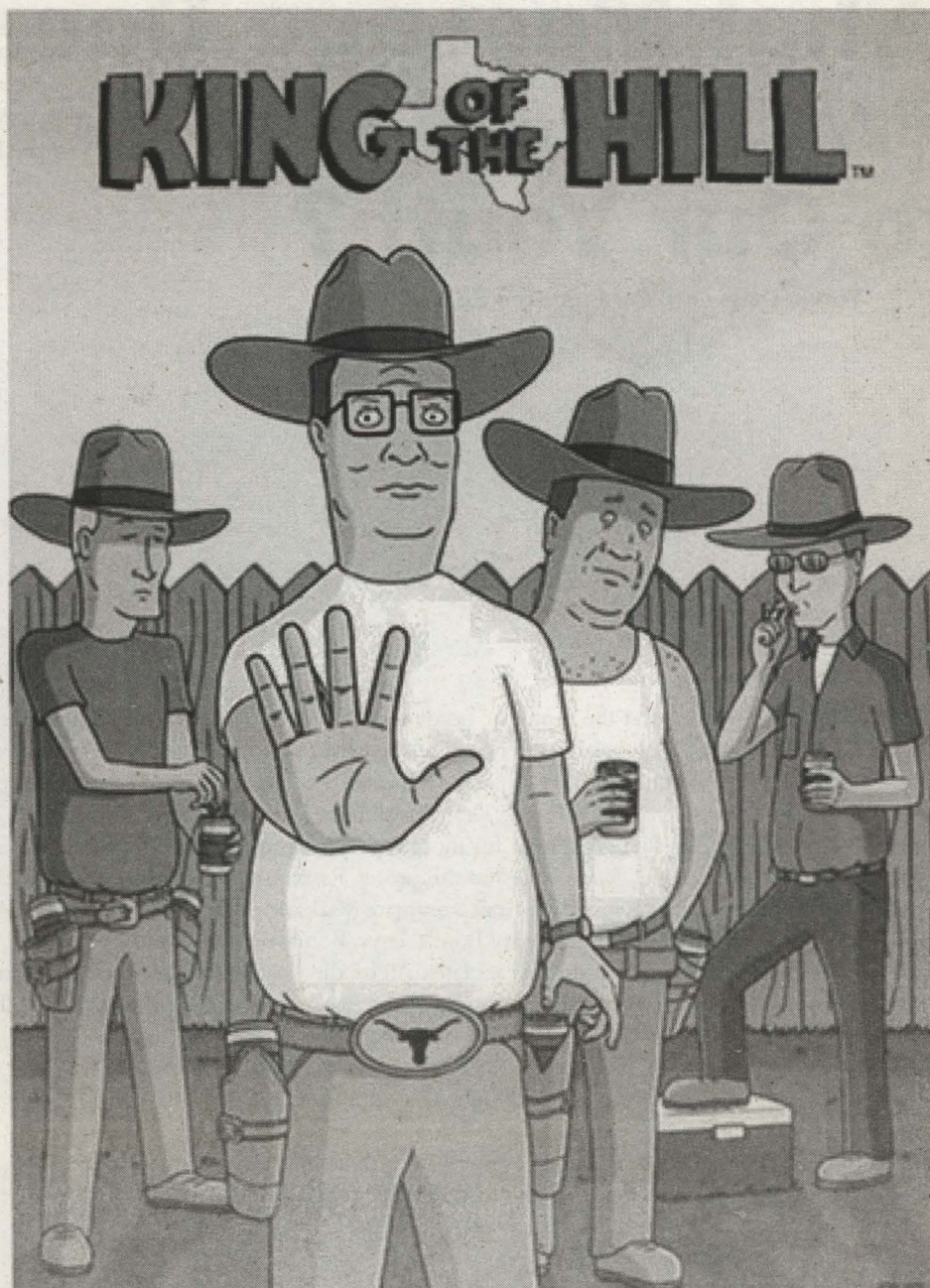
Winter Passing

Do you ever have one of those moments when you say to yourself, with deep, self-affirming grace, "Goddamn I'm glad I'm not a coke-whore?" Yeah, me either, but sometimes, you might. Anyway, in *Winter Passing*, actress (and coke-whore) Reese Holden, played by Zooey Deschanel, is offered \$100,000 by a book publisher to go to Michigan to find the love letters between her famed, reclusive father, played by a really, really old looking Ed Harris, and her mother, who has since killed herself.

Genuinely compelling writing and rolling cinematography are highlights of the film, but the greatest thing about *Winter Passing* is Will Ferrell playing a non-comedic role of friend-cum-bodyguard-cum-ex-Christian rocker to Reese's father. Ferrell's deadpan is always a source of deep amusement for me, but he plays this guy so seriously, you really wonder if he was ever a rhythm guitarist for a band called Praise Party.

Granted, the first half hour of the film is a bit distressing (especially if you're a cat person), but by the end of the movie, watching Deschanel's character finally begin to interact with her father, you're just glad not to be a coke-whore. Wow, never thought I'd get to say "coke-whore" four times in one movie review before.

Editors note: Kevin really just works at a video store for the cola discounts. He consumes up to four litres a day, thereby making him a somewhat lackluster coke-whore.



Song of the Week: "Something On" by The Tragically Hip

Patrick Mackenzie, OP Columnist



You'd think all this freaky weather should be happening in eastern Canada. With the sub-zero temperatures and windstorms causing trees to crack and topple and knock power-lines to the ground, I'm reminded of the ice storm that hit Ontario and Quebec about ten years back. The Tragically Hip's "Something On" seems to capture that extreme weather event and has been playing on my internal soundtrack ever since Old Man Winter decided to extend his stay in these parts.

It has been said of The Tragically Hip that they are nothing more than a glorified bar band. I think you could make that argument in relation to their first few recordings, but as The Hip has aged, their music has evolved alongside lead singer Gord Downie's often cryptic and obtuse lyrics.

In terms of lyrical content, "Something On" seems to be describing the eastern Canadian ice storm of a decade ago. But even though it seems to be about an actual occurrence, the song is filled with seemingly impenetrable lines: "Picture a century of water / Bury the pipeline guy right here." At the same time, however, the song evokes images of extreme winter weather: "Outside there's hectic action / The ice is covering the trees / and one of them's interconnecting / with my Chevrolet Caprice."

With all these disparate convergences of lyrical content, it is perhaps pointless to come up with a singular interpretation for the song. The sharpness of the imagery – failed power, cars being crushed by ice laden trees – emerges from the apparent randomness and chaos presented by the rest of the lyrics. But it seems that a perfect juxtaposition of sorts is taking place here; that is, from out of the seemingly random, meaningless and indeed chaotic nature of the lyrics, we are given small, recognizable pictures of the disorder sometimes wrought by nature. Even though Gordon Downie's wordsmithing is regarded as bizarre by most, the pictures his words evoke seem to ground The Hip's songs in a recognizable physical and mental geography.

As for the music, "Something On" is pure guitar-oriented pop. The song is propelled by rhythm guitar and Gord Downie's distinctive voice. Drums and bass provide a rhythm section which you could easily dance to. Despite the apparent darkness inherent in the lyrics, "Something On" is a party song. And as the dark days of winter bear down on us like Toronto's revenge, what better remedy is there to the cold than a January party? Now you've got at least one song for your playlist.

What Message Does Pro Steroid Use Send to Our Youth?

Travis Paterson, OP Features Editor

Last week Mark McGwire was at the center of headlines again during Baseball's Hall of Fame announcements. McGwire, long believed to be guilty of steroid use during his home run breaking season of 1998, is one of many athletes at the center of what *Sports Illustrated* referred to in 2003 as "The Asterisk Era" for baseball. The asterisk however, can be applied to more than just baseball, providing slippery terrain for those reporters who wish to navigate it.

In Jose Canseco's biography, *Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits, and How Baseball Got Big*, Canseco tells how he taught his former teammate Mark McGwire to use steroids. McGwire broke the homerun record to Barry Bonds' envy. Bonds then did some even better steroids, and broke the same record three years later. All of this happened while aged track and field athletes were setting world records at an astounding pace at stages in their lives that traditionally dictated retirement.

According to *Game of Shadows: Barry Bonds, BALCO, and the Steroids Scandal That Rocked Professional Sports*, co-authored by San Francisco Chronicle reporters Mark Fainaru-Wada and Lance Williams, the decision for athletes to use steroids is one of the most common themes in the current era of sports. Knowing the competition is already using steroids; most athletes realize they cannot advance their careers to an elite level without using steroids themselves.

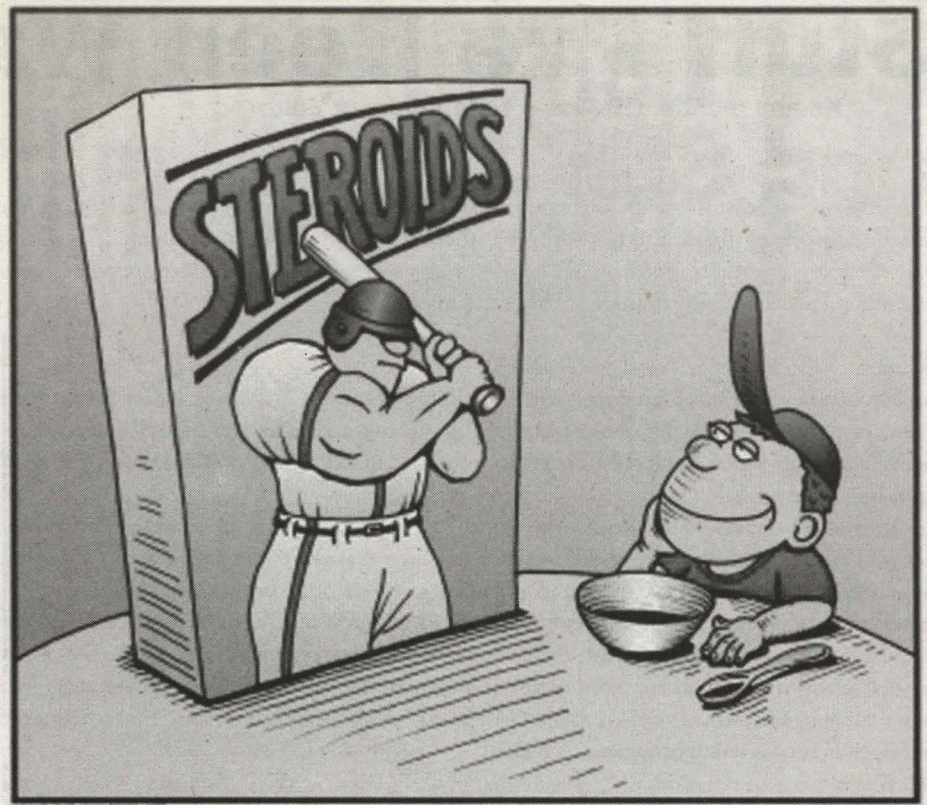
The moral crux of Jose's story argues that the reputation of professional baseball players who were accused of using steroids has been destroyed, when all along it has been the owners to blame. Baseball's popularity skyrocketed during the steroid-enriched 90s, and the owners refused to adopt a newer steroid testing policy, thereby protecting the players' choice to use performance enhancing drugs. Owners then rewarded the players with the rich contracts we see today.

As for the media who cover the MLB—how soon the owners forget the fine line reporters have to walk just to bring America's sport to the people. Baseball was America's game—pure and simple for a hundred years—and now the game has as thicker layer of underlying politics than its had at any time in history. The issues at hand are denoted in the record books by an upward spike in home run and RBI production since the early 90s.

With the countless news stories of medal-winning track and field athletes who have tested positive, and considering the issues baseball has faced, it's hard to imagine that some proportion of NHL players aren't also actively using steroids—especially considering the hockey league's backward steroid policy. In Canada, NHL players are the most popular role models for our young athletes. The NHL's steroid testing policy was exposed in 2005 when American Bryan Berard tested positive, not as an NHLer, but as a candidate for the US Olympic hockey team, yet eluded punishment from the NHL.

However, the argument goes the other way considering that a major percentage of the NHL's elite participated in the 2006 Olympics without any positive test results. It seems the NHL is currently riding that wave into the next Olympics, until which time players are free to experiment with designer steroids that are unidentified in the NHL steroid policy.

As someone who spends hours each week analyzing NHL statistics, I can't help but wonder as to the evidence that some players edging into their late 30s are better than ever; at an age level at which even the game's greatest players showed a decline in production? You certainly



won't see any media accusations of players using steroids, because if you're right, you're a rat, and if you're wrong, you lose all credibility by fabricating a story. Also, it's very believable that the 'new NHL' is reason enough for the return of former sniper's whose production had lagged in the years previous to the strike.

Though there are some instances where veteran players' have returned from the strike better than ever despite missing a year of competitive hockey. For the athletes implicated in the BALCO investigation, particularly baseball or track and field, so many of their careers had hit a wall, only to see them turn a magic corner and perform better than ever. Documented in the *Game of Shadows* is the evidence of so many athletes whose abilities were slowing, and their statistics proved it, before they began to break their own personal records and shatter a bevy of world and all-time records.

As a hockey reporter I'm at the bottom of the totem pole trying to soak up as much as I can, and it's very apparent the mention of steroids is strictly taboo. Surely it is talked about behind closed doors, but for a reporter to suggest its possible existence would jeopardize their reputation, and any accusation could spell an automatic death-sentence for your career; yet the writing is on the wall.

Canseco's book won't win any awards, but who can judge his argument that a baseball prospect from an impoverished background, and an average player at best, wouldn't consider using performance enhancing drugs to earn a multi-year contract so lucrative it will set their family up for generations?

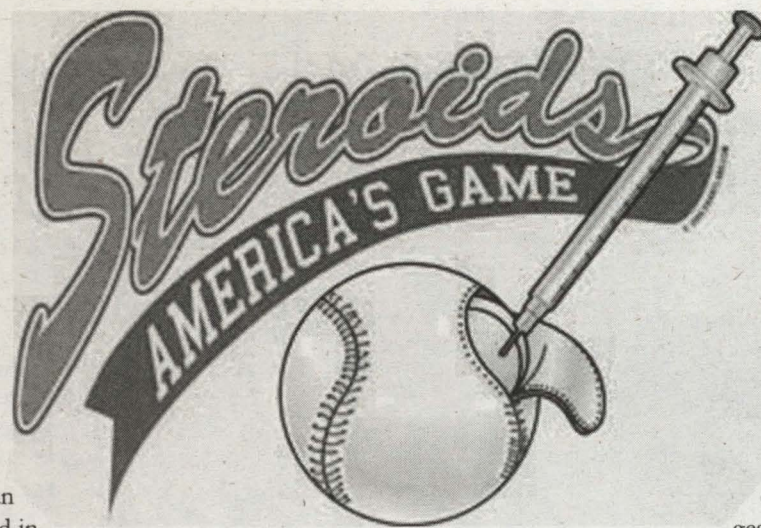
In the North West, Bret Boone was a perfect example. When the second baseman arrived with the Seattle Mariners in 1999 he was a veteran player with average numbers, but by 2001 he had doubled his production numbers propelling the Mariners to a record 116 wins. Soon after the BALCO scandal hit, his production slipped and he was waived to the minor leagues, retiring from the game.

The moneymaker of the BALCO operation was THG, or, "The Clear." THG is an abbreviation for tetrahydrogestrinone, a modified version of the anabolic steroids gestrinone and trenbolone, both of which are banned Olympic substances known to the USADA. Despite the abolishment of BALCO and its regime, drugs like THG are still on the market, and are increasingly available to younger athletes in North America.

Scared that doping has become a national phenomena, many US high school districts are adopting the National Scholastic Anti-Doping Program (NSADP), who created a steroid and drug testing program that can be adopted by coaches and administrators. By implementing testing programs at the pre-collegiate level, the U.S. hope to minimize the use of banned substances at the amateur level.

The Canadian Center for Ethics in Sport's website, www.cces.ca, posts media releases of anonymous testing results done at the collegiate level, and names other Canadian athletes who have failed drug tests. Most of the collegiate level athletes who test positive are not found to have used banned steroids, but test positive for traces of cannabis.

At this time, it looks as though steroids are not a serious problem with Canadian youth, but without future measures, it is likely they will only become increasingly available, and harder to detect.



Been Down the Feminine Products Aisle and Still Not Satisfied?

Join the hunt for a cheaper, greener solution

Jen Murray, The Underground (University of Toronto, CUP)

Every menstrual product I have ever known has been plastic, shrink-wrapped and stiff. I cannot count the number of times I have been scratched by plastic liners, stabbed by applicators, or waxed by overzealously applied adhesive.

Like many women, I was raised on tampons and pads and their tidy little wrappers. After many years (and many pad-related wax jobs) I was curious about alternatives, but unsure where to start. My curiosity was piqued when a friend mentioned that one of her friends uses a tampon alternative called the Keeper, a rubber cup that collects menstrual blood.

Her friend, "Nancy", bought the Keeper after working at an all-female camp in Quebec, where the little cup received rave reviews. Curious and wanting a healthier method to deal with her period, Nancy went shopping—only to leave it in the box.

"I put off using it for so long because I was so freaked out!" she said. "It looks like a little mouse plunger!"

Nancy eventually took the plunge—so to speak—by bringing a limited supply of traditional products to camp with her, forcing her to use her new Keeper.

"It wasn't bad at all," she said of her first experience.

Another friend of hers had to be coached from outside the bathroom door on how to insert it. "I didn't need anything like that, I was just like 'Okay, it's in' and it was fine; I've never had a problem with it," Nancy said.

Yes, but was it icky?

Apparently, it wasn't icky at all.

The association of "ickiness" is a symptom of our modern society, according to Madeleine Shaw, creator of Lunapads washable menstrual pads. She says using disposable pads and tampons turns menstruation into a negative experience: "It's just a waste product, and waste products are things we think of as gross. It's garbage, it's disgusting! Throw it in the garbage!" she said.

"All a woman's normal, natural bodily processes are treated as diseased," Shaw said. I mention to her how pretty her washable pads are, and I feel like I've made her day.

Having tried a similar product to the Keeper in the past, an experience I can sum up in the word 'Ouch,' I came to the conclusion that it isn't for me. Washable pads, however, I can deal with. And okay, I'll admit, the idea that I can pick leopard print or poodle

print fabric is part of the appeal.

Unlike the plastic pads, these things actually absorb fluid, not just the mystery blue liquid from the commercials. As for washing the fabric, it was easy enough. I simply put some laundry soap in a bucket, and rinsed the pads before soaking them. Mind you, my mother gave the dog a bath the day before so I used a garden hose attachment to rinse the pads, no doubt affecting the ease with which they came clean, but no matter. They went in the wash and came out fine.

I found the experience comfortable enough that I actually ordered some Lunapads for myself. While I might not use

them all the time, it's nice to have a choice, especially when you can choose between leopard print and poodles



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Beckham Crosses the Atlantic to Join Los Angeles Galaxy

Aging superstar to play with lesser players to regain sense of importance

Iain W. Reeve, OP Football Wizard

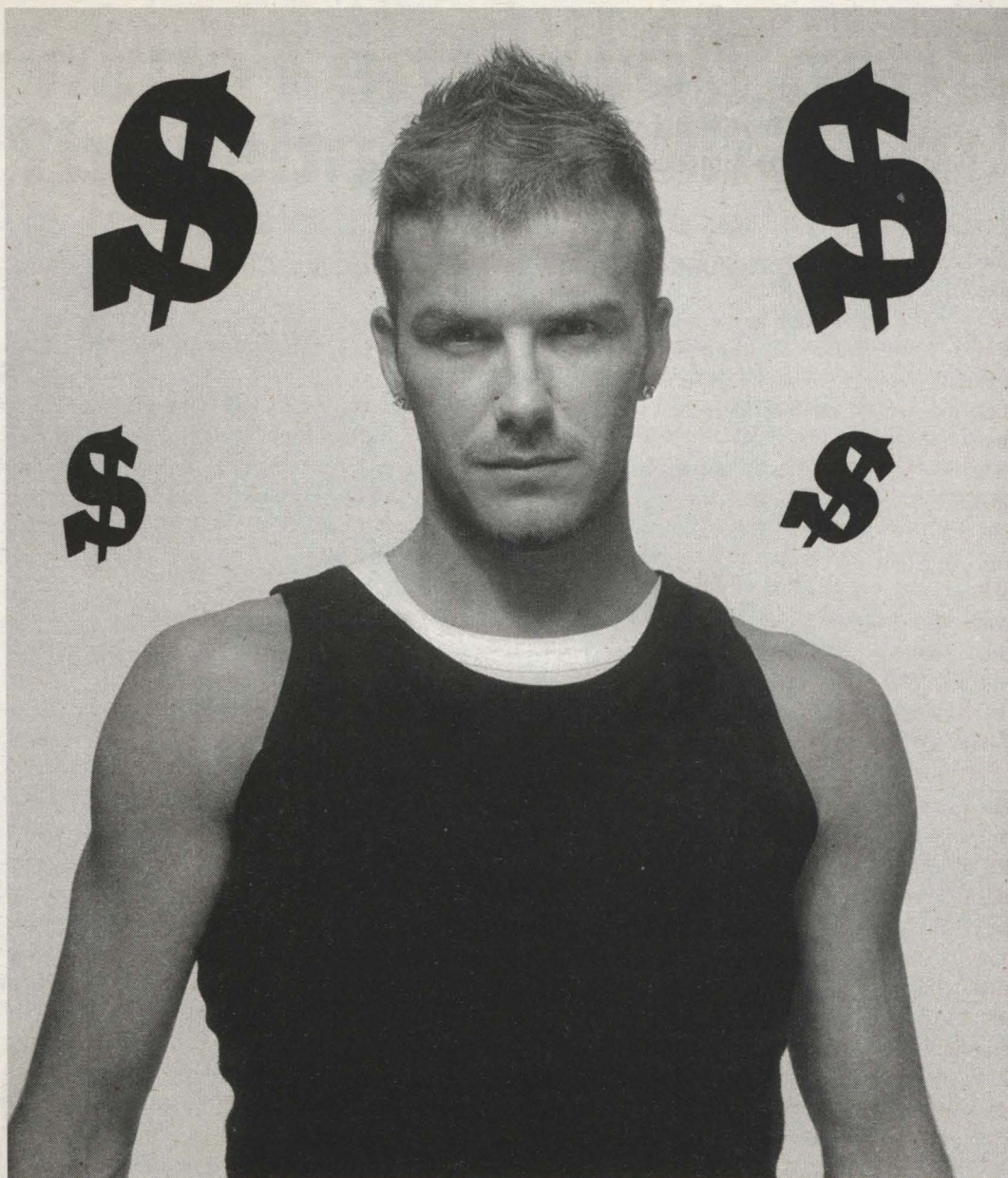
Former team England captain and Manchester United superstar David Beckham has rejected offers to resign with Spanish club Real Madrid, where he has played for the last four years. The top-flight midfielder will instead accept an offer from MLS team the Los Angeles Galaxy, becoming the most high-profile acquisition in league history.

The move has come after months of speculation and rumor, especially given Beckham's sporadic play under new Real manager Fabio Capello. The deal, worth an astronomical \$250 million over five years, will start after Beckham's contract with Real expires after this season.

Beckham, possibly the most well known soccer player in North America, may be able to boost the profile of the MLS and of soccer in North America in general. Canadian fans in Toronto will have a chance to see Beckham before the year is out as new team Toronto FC will be joining the MLS this the summer, becoming the first team outside the US to join the top club league.

The move to LA also makes sense for Beckham as it will give him a chance to more closely monitor and take part in his soccer academy located in California State. The academy, which is geared toward youth development, also has a branch in London. Beckham has referred to the academy as his legacy to the game, and it likely played a large part in his decisions to go to LA.

After being dropped from the English national team and having his starts at Madrid heavily scaled back, Beckham will likely find new energy in a league where he may already be the best overall player. Other high profile players including former world player of the year Ronaldo and Portuguese captain Luis Figo, are been rumored to be considering offers from MLS teams, as owners are making a strong attempt at making the US a bigger playing in the world game.



Heart of a Lion

Douglas College Athletics



The Douglas College women's basketball team started the year 2007 on a positive note at the Kwantlen Winter Basketball Tournament. After spending the winter 'break' practising and scrimmaging teams down in Washington, the Royals were anxious to see if their hard work had paid off.

The women opened the tournament with a hard fought 66-46 loss to Capilano College. Although the scoreboard showed a loss, they did more good things than they ever have, setting bone-crunching screens, diving on the floor after loose balls, and battling on the glass against much bigger players. They showed a level of competition that they will

need in order to contend in the league in the second half of the season. "I was very proud of our effort today and am excited about the good things that we can create for ourselves with that kind of energy," said Head Coach, Katie MacLeod.

The second day of the tournament allowed the Royals to renew the rivalry with Kwantlen College that began in the pre-season, when the two teams met three times in the month of October. Losses by 20 and 16 points, and a two point overtime heartbreaker made this game easy to get up for. The Royals trailed by four at halftime, 28-24, and, despite getting excellent shots, were unable to

convert offensively in the third quarter, scoring just three points in the quarter. Douglas headed into the fourth down 40-27. "We executed and got good looks, but just couldn't make a shot."

However, the defensive energy throughout the game began to pay dividends in the fourth quarter, as the Royals stole the ball repeatedly and were able to score in transition. Bianca Jarvis and Bernice Ko did an excellent job pressuring Kwantlen's ball handlers, and by the fourth quarter, the pressure was too much. Douglas exploded for 28 points in the quarter, and made free throws down the stretch to hang on for a 55-52 victory. The offensive attack was led by Patti Olsen's twenty points, and Katrina Kocs also chipped in with fourteen. Bernice Ko hit two free throws with less than twenty seconds remaining to seal the victory for the Royals. Undersized post players Natasha Maat, Quincie Onyjekewe and Shu Hui Wong battled on the glass all night against Kwantlen's six-foot twin towers. "The girls showed a tremendous amount of determination to come back the way they did in the fourth. We were confident that eventually the ball would start to go in for us, but were pleasantly surprised with a 28 point outburst."

Again, the Royals dove on the floor for loose balls, created second-chance opportunities with great effort on the offensive glass and made the Eagles work hard for every shot, forcing misses and then coming up with defensive rebounds so that they could go the other way.

The Royals wrapped up the tournament with an afternoon showdown against the Malaspina Mariners from Nanaimo. This was a very physical contest, and with only eight players dressed for the weekend, Douglas battled foul trouble the whole game. They scrapped our way to a one point halftime lead, 29-28, but felt they could be better in the second half. And they were, coming out firing in the second half to take a 12 point lead. The Royals never relinquished the lead, although this one came down to free throws as well, and they were able to make shots to secure a 65-62 victory. Royals post players held the Mariners fourth year standout, Maria Kirkbride, to just four points, well below her season average of 21. Tournament all-star Patti Olsen led the Royals with twenty-six points, and she was supported by Megan McKenna's ten points and Katrina Kocs, who had 17. "I love the aggressiveness that Kat played with this weekend. She scored in a number of ways, attacking the rim, going to the glass and making open shots" said Kocs.

The Royals were very disciplined offensively, showing very good decision-making ability along with unselfish play, screening for teammates and making the extra pass. "This was a successful weekend, and a great way to start the second half of the season. We will play very important league games every weekend, and these games have helped prepare us for them. The girls played with a lot of heart and I'm glad that their effort was rewarded."

Royals Win Kwantlen Winter Basketball Tournament

Douglas College Athletics

The Douglas College Royals Men's Basketball team claimed their second tournament title of the holiday season. After winning the Bearcat Holiday Classic in December, the Royals took to the floor in the 6-team Kwantlen Winter Basketball Tournament this past week. The Royals were able to sweep the tournament and take home a tournament title for the second time in many weeks.

The first game pitted the Royals against a Langara team that had beaten the Royals just five days before. This time the Royals were better prepared for the contest. With 23 points from Andrew Sturgeon and 22 from Chris Veale, the Royals won by as much as 26 points in the second half. Capping off a great night from the Royals was a huge put back dunk from rookie Ryan Hatch who started for the injured Shane Heuring. The Royals finished the game with an 89-71 victory.

Game 2 saw the Royals take on an up and coming Kamloops team. The Royals got off to a good start behind Chris Veale and Andrew Sturgeon who combined to score the Royals first 14 points. The Royals led 22-22 at halftime. The Royals used a balanced scoring attack in the second half and cruised to a 77-61 victory. Clayton Heuring led the Royals with 22 points while

Veale chipped in with 13 and Geoff Lenahan added 10.

The tournament final pitted the Royals against the only BC team to beat them this season, The Capilano Blues. The Royals were without their starting posts, Andrew Sturgeon and Shane Heuring, but roared out to a quick start behind the hot shooting of former Blue Graeme McCallum. The Royals got a Geoff

Lenahan lay-up to close the half up 47-29.

The second half was a different story. The Blues came back behind the hot shooting of second year guard Nick Toews who had 25 points in the second half. The Blues were able to cut the Royals lead to 84-82 on a J.P. Kamand lay-up with under a minute to play. However, the Royals were able to run a play at the end of the shot clock and Chris Veale knocked down a 3

pointer to put the game out of reach.

The Royals went on to win the game 89-83. Graeme McCallum scored 22 points for

the Royals and Chris Veale had 17. The Blues were led by Nick Toews and J.P. Karmand who had 30 and 19 points respectively.

Graeme McCallum was named tournament MVP. Tournament All-Stars included Chris Veale from Douglas, Jeff Krawetz from Camosun, Kyle Watson from Langara, Nick Toews from Capilano, and Matt Senges from Kwantlen



Douglas Sports Corner

Calendar of Upcoming Games

Badminton:

Tournament vs. Malaspina. Takes place in Nanaimo January 27-28.

Men's Basketball:

Home game vs. Okanagan Lakers. Game takes place in Coquitlam Saturday, Jan. 20 - 6:00pm.

Women's Basketball:

Home game vs. Okanagan Lakers. Game takes place in Coquitlam Saturday, Jan. 20 - 4:00pm.

Men's Volleyball:

Away game vs. Okanagan Lakers. Game takes place in Kelowna Saturday Jan. 20 - 5:45pm.

Women's Volleyball:

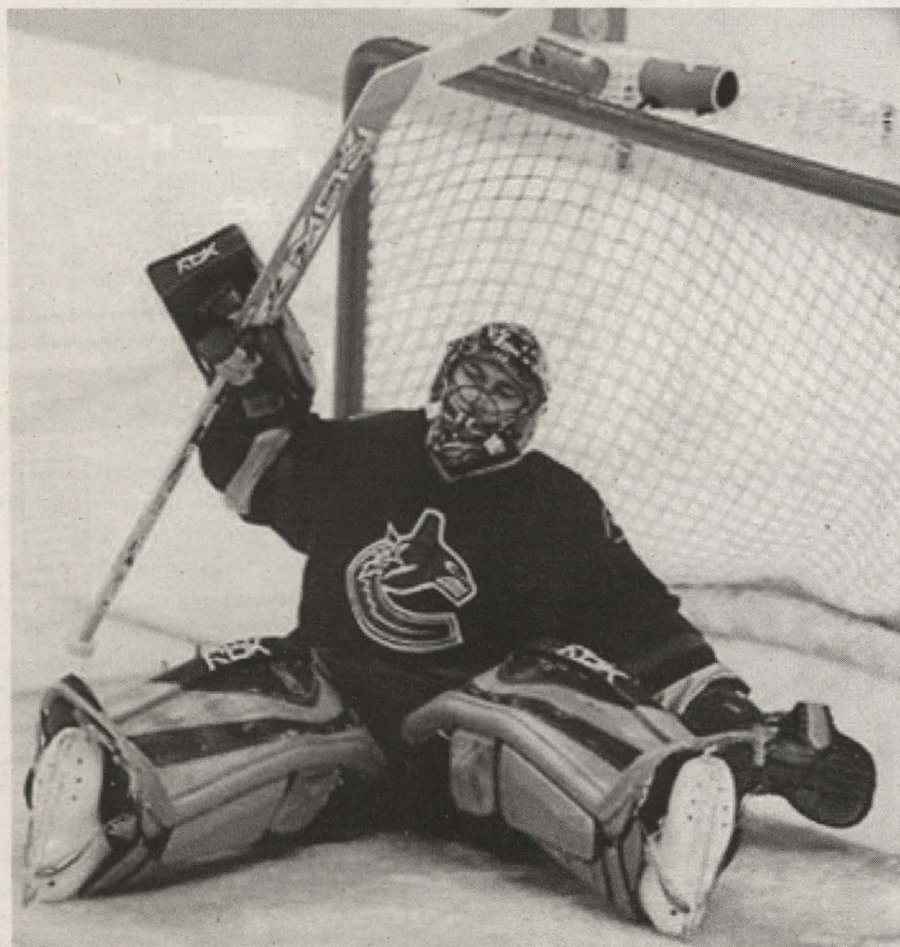
Away game vs. Okanagan Lakers. Game takes place in Kelowna Saturday Jan. 20 - 4:00pm.

Wheelchair Basketball:

Tournament #2. Tournament takes place in New Westminster BC on Saturday Jan. 13 and Sunday Jan. 14.

Canucks Corner

Stephanie Smith, OP Sports Editor



After the last 30 games, who could have ever predicted this for the Canucks? As of the 11th of January, they have won seven games in a row. They are sitting on top of their division. This is most in part to the fact that the Canucks have been scoring goals, something that they have not been doing on a consistent basis this year. The Sedins have kicked it into high gear and are now on a top line, which means more ice time, and more points for the twins.

Another key difference is the fact that Trevor Linden's ice time has been up. Instead of playing 11 minutes, playing on the penalty kill, and taking key face-offs and jumping back on the bench, Linden is seeing power play time. Alongside the Sedins he is a force on the Canucks top power play unit, and is seeing almost 19 minutes per game now. The result, better stats. And goals! After going 30 games without a goal, Linden now has 5 goals in his last 11 games.

Helping the Canucks win streak most of all is goaltender Roberto Luongo. In the past week, Luongo has picked up four victories, and has held onto a 1.92 goals-against average and a .940 save percentage.

What remains to be seen is whether they can continue on like this. I don't expect them to go on a 40-game winning streak, but if they can continue to play exactly how they are, they will make the playoffs. They may even take the division! But the worry I have is them falling back into old habits. Right now they are playing strong offensively, and they are being careful in front of their own net. How many times did a goal go in against Luongo actually come off the butt of Mattias Ohlund? More than a few I can tell you. I had jokes about signing his butt to a contract elsewhere, just to eliminate this problem. But it looks as though it has been. Not one butt-goal in the last ten games or so.

My biggest concern is Markus Naslund. Yeah, he had a pretty good game against Florida on January 7. He managed a goal and an assist, which is something that he hasn't been doing too often lately. The problem with that is the reason he hasn't been producing. He won't say anything, and neither will the staff, but Naslund is hurting. He missed the puck entirely in the shootout against Dallas a few games back, and his shot has been way off the last few weeks.

If the Canucks can stay healthy, they can do well. If they can keep up their work ethic, they can do well if Naslund can take a rest and get himself back in working order, they can do well.

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